



Parent News

Supporting Student Success

Thursday, Aug. 12

*Chancellor's Office Hours,
6-8 p.m., Brookland
Elementary, 1401 Michigan
Ave. NE*

Wednesday, Aug. 16

*Chancellor's Community
Forum on Afterschool
Programs, 6:30-8 p.m.,
M.C. Terrell Elementary,
3301 Wheeler Rd. SE*

Saturday, Aug. 21

*Beautification Day!
Groups and individuals can
register today at
dcps.dc.gov.*

Monday, Aug. 23

*First Day of School, Enroll-
ment for Afterschool
programs begins
Visit www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/
firstday for everything you
need to prepare for your stu-
dent's first day.*

***Did you know Parent
News is distributed
monthly? Don't forget
to pick up the latest
issue from your school
at the beginning of
each month!***

Get ready for the first day of school!

The first day of the 2010-11 school year is Monday, Aug. 23. Get prepared for your student's first day by visiting DCPS online at www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/firstday to find enrollment information, a free and reduced meals application, supplies lists and more.

Lost? Having trouble navigating the system?

The Critical Response Team is here to help you.

As your student begins the school year, you may have questions about a variety of topics. The Critical Response Team (CRT) is here to help. The CRT specializes in helping parents and students navigate the many resources DCPS has available, and reports directly to Chancellor Rhee with your feedback. You may reach the Critical Response Team at **202-478-5738**. Our phone line is staffed every weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Remember, your first and best source of information is the school staff. Please do not hesitate to contact the principal, nurse, or other school-based staff for help. However, if you still have questions after talking to the school staff, please contact the CRT. The CRT is happy to address your questions or help you find the right answers.

Enroll your student in Afterschool Programs

Registration for the DCPS Afterschool Program opens Aug. 23! The program provides academic, wellness, and enrichment opportunities for DCPS students of all ages. Students attending three hours of afterschool programming each day gain the equivalent of nearly four months of learning time. Younger students can benefit from academic support, self-esteem-building activities, and structured wellness programs. High school students can take credit recovery classes, receive tutoring, and participate in sports, clubs, and college and career readiness programs. To obtain information about enrolling your child, please contact your school, call 202-442-5002, or visit the DCPS website at <http://dcps.dc.gov> (click "Beyond the Classroom," and select "Afterschool Programs").



*Students from Ferebee-Hope ES
Photo by Michael DeAngelis*

***DCPS regularly sends out
emails about events and
announcements. Sign up
to receive notifications
by visiting [http://
dcps.dc.gov /DCPS/
enews](http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/enews).***



*Students from Ron Brown MS
Photo by Michael DeAngelis*



*Students from School Without Walls
Photo by Michael DeAngelis*

Become a fan of your school! More than 35 DCPS schools have Facebook fan pages. View the list of "Favorite Pages" on the DCPS fan page – <http://www.facebook.com/>



*Students from Browne EC
Photo by Bel Perez-Gabliondo*

Special Education Parents: Meet with your Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team

A new school year means new teachers, and in some cases, a new school for your student. You will get to know your classroom teacher(s) through parent-teacher conferences and other classroom interactions. For students with disabilities, however, it is a good idea to get to know everybody on the "IEP team" that supports your child. This includes special education and general education teachers, and related service providers such as social workers or speech pathologists, as well as your school's Special Education Coordinator (SEC).

Contact your school's SEC at the beginning of the year to learn the names of everyone on your child's IEP team so you can get to know them. You will see these individuals at the annual IEP meeting, but communicating with all these educators who work with your student throughout the year is a great way to maximize your child's growth. Remember, while you can always request an IEP meeting whenever you feel one is necessary, you and the IEP team should be in regular communication about the progress of your child.

Parent Tip: Establish Routines Now

Children can be better prepared for school by starting their scheduled routine ahead of time. About a week before the first day (Aug. 23) make sure your student wakes up at the same time they will need to during the school year. Talk to your child about everything they need to know about getting ready for the school day, such as getting dressed, brushing their teeth and packing their backpack. Ensure that mealtimes are aligned with the school schedule and your child gets to bed on time. Plan time for homework and reading. Establishing a schedule at the beginning of the year is important for students of every age; high school students benefit from routines as much as elementary school students.

First week of school for Preschool/Pre-K students

The transition from home to school is a major milestone in our children's lives and their ability to adjust can affect future academic performance. Starting this fall, children enrolled in preschool or pre-K at a District of Columbia Public School will participate in DCPS's "Early Childhood Transition Week" from Aug. 23 - 27.

The first letter of your child's last name will determine which days of the first week your child should attend school.

- Children with a last name beginning with the letters A–K will attend school Monday and Tuesday.
- Children with a last name beginning with the letters L–Z will attend school Wednesday and Thursday.
- ALL children will attend school together Friday, Aug. 27.

Monday through Friday of the first week of school will be full school days from 8:45 a.m.–3:15 p.m. Families are welcome but not expected to stay with their child during that week. This new policy will benefit both children and parents. During transition week, you will meet with your child's teacher to discuss goals for the year and begin building the a strong parent-teacher relationship. You will learn about ways you can be an active participant in your child's classroom and support your child's school.